AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electricity generation equipment management system comprising:

at least one generator unit, operated by an electricity provider, supplying electricity to at least one specific electricity consumer;

a management center, monitoring an operation status of said at least one generator unit and monitoring an amount of electricity supplied to said at least one specific electricity consumer by said at least one generator unit;

a database configured to store and manage information collected at the at least one generator unit, the information selected from the group comprising detection information, generator unit specification information, maintenance information, and service company information;

the management center being operable to access the database information so as to provide unified management over the information;

a system for communicating information between said management center and said electricity provider; and

an Internet virtual financial institution that supports transactions that bill an electricity supply service fee to each of said at least one specific electricity consumer based on information received from said management center.

2. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one generator unit is installed locally with respect to said at least one specific electricity consumer.

3. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system according to claim 1, wherein there is provided one of said at least one generator unit for each one of said at least one specific electricity consumer.

4. (Currently Amended) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 2 further comprising:

a service company maintaining and managing operation of said at least one generator unit;

a relationship data record included in the database containing an association between the generator unit and a specific service company; and

~~said service company receiving instructions from~~ said management center further operable to select the specific service center to receive instructions based on the association in the relationship data record.

5. (Previously Presented) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 4 wherein:

said at least one generator unit is a fuel cell electricity generating device;

said service company includes a fuel supply company and a maintenance/management company;

said fuel supply company supplying fuel to said fuel cell electricity generating device; and

said maintenance/management company performing maintenance on said fuel cell electricity generating device and responding to irregularities in said fuel cell electricity generating device.

6. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 2 wherein said at least one generator unit is used locally by said at least one specific electricity consumer as a home generator system.

7. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 4 wherein said at least one generator unit is used locally by said at least one specific electricity consumer as a home generator system.

8. (Previously Presented) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 2 wherein:

said at least one generator unit is installed for said at least one specific electricity consumer in a region where laying and maintaining electrical cable from said electricity provider is difficult; and

said management center uses wireless communication equipment to collect information from said at least one generator unit regarding operation status of said at least one generator unit and regarding an amount of electricity supplied to said at least one specific electricity consumer.

9. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 8 wherein said electricity provider uses the Internet for billing and payment of said electricity supply service fee for said at least one specific electricity consumer.

10. (Previously Presented) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 4 wherein:

said at least one generator unit is installed for said at least one specific electricity consumer in a region where laying and maintaining electrical cable from said electricity provider is difficult; and

said management center uses wireless communication equipment to collect information from said generator unit regarding operation status of said at least one generator unit and regarding an amount of electricity supplied to said at least one specific electricity consumer.

11. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system as described in claim 10 wherein said electricity provider uses the Internet for billing and payment of said electricity supply service fee for said at least one specific electricity consumer.

12. (Previously Presented) An electricity generation equipment management system comprising:

at least one locally installed fuel cell electricity generating device supplying electricity to at least one specific electricity consumer;

a management center monitoring an operation status of said at least one fuel cell electricity generating device via a predetermined network;

a service company maintaining and operating said fuel cell electricity generating device based on instructions received from said management center;

a database for storing information about irregularities issued from said at least one fuel cell electricity generating device in association with information relating to said service company corresponding to said irregularity information;

means for notifying said service company associated with said irregularity by looking up said database upon detection of an irregularity in said at least one fuel cell electricity generating device; and

an Internet virtual financial institution that supports transactions that bill each of said at least one specific electricity consumer a maintenance and operating service fee based on information stored in said database.

13. (Original) The electricity generation equipment management system according to claim 12, wherein there is provided one of said at least one fuel cell electricity generating device for each one of said at least one specific electricity consumer.

14. (Currently Amended) An electricity management system, comprising:

generating means for generating electricity;

said generating means being local to a specific electricity consumer, whereby power cables from an electricity provider to said specific electricity consumer are unnecessary;

monitoring means for remotely monitoring said generating means;

a storage means configured to store and manage information collected at the at least one generator unit, the information selected from the group comprising detection information, generator unit specification information, maintenance information, and service company information;

the management center being operable to access the database information so as to provide unified management over the information; and

billing means for charging said specific electricity consumer for a consumed amount of said electricity, the billing means including an Internet virtual financial institution.

15. (Original) The electricity management system as described in claim 14, further comprising a management center for receiving data from said monitoring means.

16. (Original) The electricity management system as described in claim 15 further comprising:

a service company maintaining and managing operation of said generator unit; and

said service company receiving instructions from said management center.

17. (Original) The electricity management system as described in claim 16 wherein:

said generating means includes a fuel cell electricity generating device;

said service company includes a fuel supply company and a maintenance/management company;

said fuel supply company supplying fuel to said fuel cell electricity generating device; and

said maintenance/management company performing maintenance on said fuel cell electricity generating device and responding to irregularities in said fuel cell electricity generating device.

18. (Original) The electricity management system as described in claim 15, wherein said management center uses wireless communication equipment to collect information from said generating means regarding operation status of said generating means and regarding an amount of electricity supplied to said specific electricity consumer.

19. (Original) The electricity management system as described in claim 18 wherein said electricity provider uses the Internet for billing and payment of an electricity supply service fee for said specific electricity consumer.